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AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, or listings, of claims in this application.

1. (Currently Amended) A continuous process for the production of an elastomer-modified thermoplastic comprising
 - (i) obtaining graft elastomer D) that includes a grafted phase A), said D) having residual moisture content of 1 to 50 wt. %,
 - (ii) introducing partially filling a compounding reactor with the graft elastomer D) and a thermoplastic resin B) through at least one inlet of a the compounding reactor and operating the partially filled compounding reactor under conditions calculated to melt D) and (B) and to remove organic volatile components C), and
 - (iii) collecting a molten blend comprising A), D) and B),said reactor being equipped with a housing having a surface, a plurality of kneading bars that provide kneading action and an exit zone, said kneading bars conveying a portion of the molten blend towards the reactor inlet; and wherein heat energy required to melt D) and B) is introduced by mechanical energy via said kneading action and thermal energy by heating a surface of the housing, at a ratio of mechanical energy to thermal energy of 4:1 to 1:6.
2. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the graft elastomer D) is dewatered in at least one of centrifuge and a dewatering extruder.
3. (Original) The process of claim 2 wherein the graft elastomer D) is dewatered in a centrifuge and a dewatering extruder connected in series to yield residual moisture content of 10 to 23% relative to the weight of D).
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein elastomer D) is selected from the group consisting of butadiene rubber, acrylonitrile-butadiene rubber,

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styreneacrylonitrile-butadiene rubber.

6. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein said grafted phase A) is at least one member selected from the group consisting of styrene-acrylonitrile copolymer, polystyrene, polymethyl methacrylate, polyvinyl chloride, polycarbonate, polybutylene terephthalate, polyoxymethylene, polymethyl methacrylate, polyphenylene sulfide, polysulfone, polyether sulfone and polyamide.
7. (Original) The process according to claim 1 wherein the thermoplastic B) is at least one member selected from the group consisting of styrene-acrylonitrile copolymer, polystyrene, polymethyl methacrylate, polyvinyl chloride, polycarbonate, polybutylene terephthalate, polyoxymethylene, polymethyl methacrylate, polyphenylene sulfide, polysulfone, polyether sulfone and polyamide.
8. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the conveying by the kneading bars takes place in the exit zone.
9. (Withdrawn) A compounding reactor for processing thermoplastic material comprising
 - (i) at least two axially parallel screws, each provided with a plurality of discs each having a perimeter and each having kneading bars arranged around its perimeter,
 - (ii) a housing enclosing fittings and containing at least two inlets and an exit,
 - (iii) a means for rotating the screws and
 - (iv) a heating/cooling system, at least some of the kneading bars being at an angle to their direction of movement such that the rotating screws convey at least part of the material away from the exit and towards the inlets.
10. (Withdrawn) The compounding reactor according to claim 9, wherein the kneading bars on three to five discs are set at said angle.

11. (Withdrawn) A molding composition produced by the process of claim 1.
12. (Withdrawn) A molded article comprising the molding compositions of claim 11.